

games™



chess™

Real chess made really fun

Instruction manual

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Welcome!

Hi there buddy and a warm welcome to LEGO Chess, the coolest game in the world. I'm the King, the hard rockin' star of chess, and I'm gonna be your host throughout the game – and this manual! Take my advice, buddy , and read this little booklet from cover to cover 'cos it'll help make your trip through Chessland even more fun.

Chess has been played for thousands of years by billions of people from all over the world, but no-one's ever played it quite like this before! In LEGO Chess you'll see your favorite LEGO Western and Pirates characters come to life and walk into battle. And for those that prefer their chess the old-fashioned way, there's even a traditional chess set – built from LEGO bricks, of course!

And hey, don't fret if you've never played chess before. I'm the King of Chessland, remember? I'll teach you all you need to know – and a few of my most special chess secrets too! Friend, you'll be a chess master before you can sing "Ah-wham-bamma-loo-ah, a-wham-bam-boo"!

Buddy, I've got so much great stuff to tell ya, so come on – turn the page and let's get goin'!



Starting LEGO Chess

Buddy, I'm so excited 'cos it's finally time to play LEGO Chess! First things first, make sure that the LEGO Chess CD-ROM is in the CD-ROM drive of your PC – the game just won't work without it! Now pick any of the following ways to get started...

- Click on the 'LEGO Chess' entry in the 'programs' section of the 'Start' menu.

OR...

- Open the folder where LEGO Chess was installed to and double click on the 'Chess.exe' icon.

Configuration Program


The very first time you play LEGO Chess, a little window will appear asking you how you'd like the game to look. The faster and more advanced your PC is, the better LEGO Chess will look and play. LEGO Chess will automatically pick what it thinks are the best settings for your machine. If you're happy with them, just click on the 'OK' button.

LEGO Chess will remember these settings and use them whenever you play again. You can change them if you want, but it's a bit tricky in places – I'd advise you to get an adult to help and ask them to read 'Notes for Parents' on page 30 before they start.


Sign In Please!

Before you enter my throne room, you'll be asked to sign the royal guest register. Well, we can't have just anyone wandering around my castle, can we? But this is more than a formality – it allows me to keep a record of how well you're doing and what awards you've won, so that the next time you visit you don't have to start from scratch again. Ain't that nice of me?

If you're a new visitor to my castle...

On the registration screen you'll see a list containing the names of all the people who've visited my castle. At the top of the list you'll see the entry '<< New Player >>'. Click on this and you'll then be asked to type in your name and age. Click on  when you've finished to enter my throne room.

If you've visited my castle before...

On the registration screen you'll see a list containing the names of all the people who've visited my castle. Just find your name then click on it to highlight it. Now click on  to enter my throne room. Groovy!



Exploring the Throne Room



Hey, you finally made it! Welcome to my throne room, buddy! Sorry about the mess – I've been so busy with my royal duties that I haven't had time to clean up. But hey, that's the beauty of being a King – no-one tells you to tidy your room! Er, except my good wife, the Queen.

Anyhow, you make yourself nice an' comfortable now 'cos we got some chess fun to be had! Just move your mouse over the objects in my room – each is a secret gateway to a different part of Chessland. When you've found where you want to go, click your mouse button – yeah, it's that easy!


Quick Start

What's that? You wanna start playing now? But you haven't even finished reading this manual yet? Oh, alright then – I can't blame you for being eager. Here's how to get into some action real quick. Make sure you come back later though, you hear?



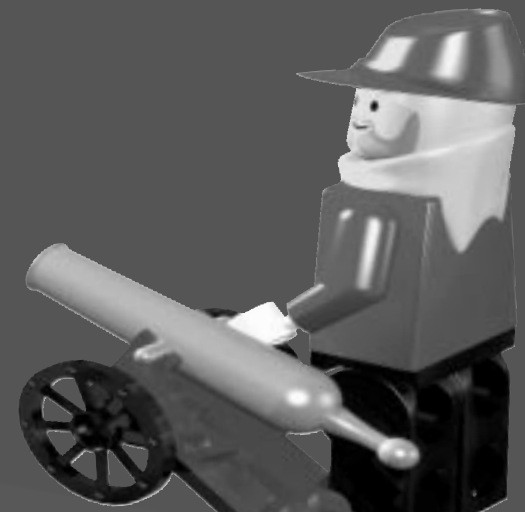
First, click on the chess board in my throne room...



...You'll now see this screen. Click on . (Don't worry about all the other stuff on-screen – you can find out about that later!)



Woo-wee! It's time to party in Chessland! Game on!



Controlling the Action

LEGO Chess is so easy to control even my arch rival, that dumb so-called King on the other side of the board, can play! Here's what you do...

Making a Move



Okay, move your mouse. See how that arrow moves around on-screen too? That's your pointer. You'll notice that whenever the pointer moves over the board, the square beneath it lights up.



Move your mouse so that the square below the piece you want to move is illuminated. Now click your mouse button to select the piece – see how the square beneath it is now pulsating? If you've made a mistake – hey, we all do from time to time! – click on the piece again to de-select it or click on another piece to change your selection.



Point at the square you want to move the piece to and click again. As long as the move you're trying to make is allowed, the piece will get up and go!



Controlling the Action

Changing the View

Did you know you can rotate the board? Yeah, you can! Ain't that neat? C'mon, I'll show you how...



First, click on this button – you'll see it open up.



Now click on the four arrows around the edge of the button to rotate the board or tilt it up and down.



If you're feelin' fancy, point at the base of the board and hold down your mouse button – the pointer will change shape. Now if you move the mouse you'll see the board move too!



Getting confused? Don't panic – just click on this button again and the board will snap back to the standard view.

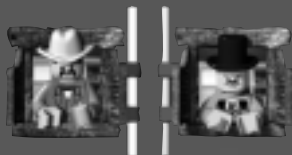
2D Or Not 2D...



Sometimes when you're planning your strategies, you might want a clearer view of the whole board. No problemo, friend – simply click on this button! You'll see the screen change to show a simplified 2D view of the board. If you want, you can continue playing on this board – just click on the pieces and the squares you want them to move to – or you can click on the button again to return to the cool 3D view.

Controlling the Action

A Helping Hand



In the corners of the screen you'll see two characters peeking out of windows. If you're playing with either the Western or Pirates chess sets, then these will be the heroes and villains from the Story Game (see page 18).

If you're playing with the traditional chess set, you'll see me and that no-good cheatin' King from the rival band. Me and my fellow advisors are there to help you play chess...

For a start, you'll see we've got flags a-flutterin' next to our windows. If you lose a piece – and promise you'll try hard not to, buddy! – you'll see the flag drop down the pole. And the more valuable the piece, the further it drops! By comparing the flags of the two sides, you can get a rough idea of how well you're doing.

When it's your turn, click on your team's advisor and he'll show you some buttons that allow you to change the game. If you want to get back to the game, click on him again.



This button changes your pointer. You can choose to have a simple or an intelligent pointer – the intelligent pointer helps when you select a piece by showing the piece's traditional symbol or its material value or both! Cycle through the choices by repeatedly clicking on the button.



If you wish, your advisor will help you by showing you all the possible moves a selected piece can make. Click on this button to toggle this feature on or off.

Controlling the Action



If you're really stuck, click on this button for a hint. If you're playing a Story Game you'll only be able to use this feature 5 times in each game, but if you're playing a Quick Game you can use it as many times as you like! However, if you're playing a Network Game your opponent will be asked if it's okay first – after all, it is kinda like cheatin'!



Made a bad move? Then click on this button to take it back! If you're playing a Story Game you'll only be able to use this feature 5 times in each game, but there are no limits if you're playing a Quick Game. If you're playing a Network Game your opponent will be asked if it's okay first.

Options & Settings



There are loads more options in LEGO Chess – just click on this button to get at 'em...





Don't want to start a game from scratch? Fine – just click on this button! This lets you pause the game, move the pieces anywhere on the board, and then carry on playing. Of course, you can't do this in the Story Game and if you're playing a Network Game your opponent will be asked if it's okay first.

After clicking on the button, you'll see a 2D view of the game currently in progress. Any pieces that have already been captured will be shown at the side of the board, ready and waiting to get back into battle.

Controlling the Action

To move a piece, simply click on it and then click on the square where you want it to go. If you want to remove the selected piece from play, just click anywhere off the board. If you put a piece on an occupied square it will replace the piece already there. To add a piece to the board, simply click on its symbol at the side of the board and then click on where you want it to go.

When you're happy with your work, click on  to continue play. On the other hand, if you want to reset the board to its original state click on .



If you've saved a game previously, you can load it back in by clicking on this button. You'll then be taken to the chest in my throne room – for more on this see 'Load Game' on page 26. Remember that if you load a game you'll erase the game currently in progress, and if you're playing a Network Game your opponent will be asked if it's okay first.

Controlling the Action



Any time during a game you can save the current state of play. Just click on this button and then type in a name for the saved game. This can then be loaded back in from the main menu screen or by clicking on the above button. If you're playing a Network Game and the connection between the machines is broken, then you'll automatically be asked if you want to save the game.



In the middle of a game and fancy playing as the other guy? Then click on this button! Of course, you can't swap sides in a Story Game, and if you're playing a Network Game then your opponent will be asked whether they agree to change ends – hey, it's only fair!



If things are going real bad and all looks lost, click on this button to resign. You'll lose the game – but hey, you can always try again! You'll be asked if you're sure you really want to resign before the white flag is waved.

If you want to change the settings in-game, press F1. See page 27 for more on this.



Controlling the Action

Using the Keyboard

More of a keyboard king than a mouse maniac? No problem – it's possible to control LEGO Chess using the keyboard. Here's a list of the controls:

Arrow keys	Used to move the illuminated cursor around the board and select a button in a menu.
ENTER	Used to select a highlighted piece or square and activate a highlighted button in a menu.
Shift + Arrow Keys	Allows you to rotate and tilt the board.
TAB	Cycles through the buttons on the game screen.

Change Player



Click on the quill and ink bottle resting on the arm of my throne to go to the guest register. Then you can start a new game under another name or let a different player sign in. (See 'Sign In Please!' on page 5 for more on this).

If you want to delete a player, highlight the name and then press the 'DELETE' key on your keyboard. You'll be asked if you're sure you want to go ahead – if you are, click on.

How to Play



Don't know how to play chess? Then just click on the big open book in my throne room! It'll take you to my study, where I've got a real special guest star lined up to help you learn the rules... Who? Why me, of course! There's no-one better to tell you about the 'Game Of Kings' than a real king – and they don't get much realer than me, baby!

The King's Study

The study is where I keep my special chess rulebooks. These royal tomes have been passed down through my family for hundreds of generations, and contain all the secrets of Chessland. Normally I don't let folk look at 'em, but I'll make an exception in your case 'cos... well... 'cos I like you, buddy.

Choosing a Book

To look at a book, just click on it. If you want to read the book from the start, click on . If you want to start reading from a specific chapter, first highlight the chapter heading by clicking on it and then click on .

Basic Rules

This book introduces you to the loyal members of my chess band. It tells you how they move, how they capture the rival band's forces and how they help you win the game.

Advanced Rules


This book explains some of the weird n' wonderful special chess rules you need to know to become a winner.

How to Play

Tactics, Tricks & Secrets

My most valuable book contains all the special secrets that turn chess players into chess masters!

When you first visit my study, you'll only be able to read the 'Basic Rules' book. When you've read that from cover to cover I'll let you look at the 'Advanced Rules' book. And when you've finished that I'll let you look at my special 'Tactics, Tricks & Secrets' book. After all, we don't want you running before you can walk, now do we? I mean, some of those chess secrets baffle even me – and I'm the King!

Don't worry if you're short on time. You can stop reading at any point in any book and I'll remember where you finished. Then the next time you drop by you can restart from where you left off. The heading of the last chapter you reached will already be highlighted, and you can just click on  to continue. Cool, huh?

How to Play

Win Awards!

In each book there are gazillions of fun puzzles to solve. As you work your way through the books, I've got some right royal treats for you – special awards to thank you for all your hard work. And if you get gold awards – or better! – in all three books, well... then I've got something REAL special for ya!



Story Game



Lookin' for a challenge? You are? Then try one of the Story Games – just click on the curtains at the back of my throne room to get at 'em! In the Story Games you take part in exciting adventures starring heroes and villains from the LEGO Western and Pirates themes. At various points, as the thrilling tales unfold, you'll be challenged to a game of chess – and whether you win or lose will change the stories' outcome!

Choose a Story

To choose a Story, click on the painting behind the curtain. The curtains will then close and open again, revealing a new Story. There are two Stories to enjoy – Wild West and Pirates. When you've selected the one you want to play, click on ☒. You'll now see a map screen showing three main locations from your chosen Story.

If this is the first time you've played the Story...

The first location on the map will be highlighted – click on ☒ to start playing.

If you've played the Story before...

The furthest location on the map you reached previously will be highlighted – click on ☒ to continue playing where you left off. If you want, you can also replay any of the chess battles you've already won – just click on the location to highlight it, then on ☒.

Making Progress

After you've selected your starting location, you'll be treated to a cool cartoon explaining the Story so far (if you want to skip this, hit the SPACE bar on your PC's keyboard). When the story reaches a critical point, the screen will dissolve and you'll play a game of chess. In the Story Game you're always on the side of the hero, not the villain.

If you lose or draw the game...

Bad luck, buddy! The Story's come to a sticky end. Play the game again and see if you can win next time.

If you win the game...

Good going, buddy! The Story continues, and takes you to the next chess battle.

Cool Stuff!

As you play each chess game, you'll be shown funny cartoons whenever one piece takes another. If you were the player who performed the capture, you'll be rewarded with a sticker for your Scrapbook. Now you can replay that animation whenever you like by going to the Scrapbook and clicking on the sticker.

Also, if you finish a Story you'll be rewarded with a special certificate to commemorate your achievement. This will appear in your Scrapbook, and can be printed out if you have a printer attached to your PC.

See 'Scrapbook' on page 26 for more about both of these awards.



Quick Game



Fancy seeing what the Pirates would look like battling in the Wild West? Or maybe you want to test your chess prowess by increasing the computer intelligence to max? Or maybe you feel like challenging your friend to a game? Whatever you want to do, click on the chessboard in my throne room. This is where you can change just about everything in the game – except the fact that I'm the coolest King in Chessland, natch.



Choices, Choices...

The Quick Game screen allows you to change almost every aspect of the chess game...

Select Theme

Click here to choose which LEGO System theme you want the background to come from. Keep clicking until the theme you want appears. As you change themes, the chess sets will change automatically too – unless you've already changed them manually, that is.

Select Background

Click here to choose which background from the chosen theme you'll play in. Keep clicking until the background you want appears. Bear in mind that you can only select backgrounds that you've already reached in the Story Game.

Select Chess Set

Normally the chess set will change automatically to correspond to the theme you've selected. However, if you wish you can click here and choose the set you want to play with. Keep clicking until the set you want appears. You can choose any of the sets in the Story Game or a traditional set, and each side can have a different set too – although you won't get to see cartoons of the captures if you do this!

Select Player


Click here to choose whether the side is controlled by a human or the computer. Remember that the white/blue side always moves first!

Select Difficulty

Slide the button on this bar to change the intelligence of your computer opponent. You can also click on the buttons next to the bar to 'fine tune' the difficulty setting. When you select a board background the difficulty will automatically match the settings in the Story Game, but the computer can play an even harder game than that – how high can you try?

Select Game Type

Click here to choose either a normal chess game or one of the Pawns Games – these are introduced in the 'Basic Rules' book in my study. Keep clicking until the game you want appears.

When you're happy with your selections, click on  to begin play.

Two-Player Fun

If you're like me, you'll want to show off your chess-playin' skills. And what better way than to challenge a friend to a game? If your friend is sitting right next to you, then just go into the Quick Game and make both players human. Now you can play on the same PC, taking turns to move – the computer will automatically rotate the board so that the current player gets the best view of the action.

But get this – you can also play against friends across the street or right around the other side of the world, provided you and your friends both have PCs with the right equipment. Here's how...



Network Game

To get going, click on the window in my throne room. Starting a Network Game can be a little tricky, and you might want to get an adult to help you. You'll be asked for some details about how you want to connect the two PCs. The choices are...

IPX connection

This allows you to play against someone on another PC over a local area network. After selecting this option, you'll see a list of players on the network who are waiting for a game. Simply highlight an opponent's name by clicking on it and then click on . You'll now go to the set-up screen.

Alternatively, highlight 'New Game' at the top of the list of players and then click on . Your name will join the list – when somebody else challenges you to a game, you'll go to the set-up screen.

Internet TCP/IP

This allows you to play against someone on another PC connected to the Internet. After selecting this option, you'll be asked for the name or IP address of the computer you want to connect to. If you're going to start a game for someone else to join, or join a game on your local network, then you can leave this blank. Otherwise fill in the name or IP address (an IP address is four numbers separated by full stops) and then click on to continue.

You'll now see a list of players who are waiting for a game. Simply click on an opponent's name to highlight it and then click on . You'll now go to the set-up screen.

Alternatively, highlight 'New Game' at the top of the list of players and then click on . Your name will join the list – when somebody else challenges you to a game, you'll go to the set-up screen.

Modem Connection

This allows you to play against someone on another PC linked directly via a modem. You'll be asked whether you want to dial out to someone else's modem or wait for someone to call you. Once you have chosen, click on and select your modem from the dialog box. Once you and your opponent have connected, you'll go to the set-up screen. (If you need more help configuring your modem, please consult your Windows documentation.)

No matter what the connection is, the player who opened the game is known as the 'host' while the player who joined the game is known as the 'client'. It's important to remember this as the 'host' player has a couple of special privileges when it comes to setting up the game.



Two-Player Fun

Setting Up a Network Game

Once you and your opponent's PCs are connected, you'll see this screen. It's very similar to the Quick Game screen, and allows you to change the way the game looks.



Select Theme

Click here to choose which LEGO System theme you want your background to come from. Keep clicking until the theme you want appears. Each player can choose a different theme.

Select Background

Click here to choose which background from the chosen theme you'll play in. Keep clicking until the background you want appears. As in the Quick Game, you can only select backgrounds that you've already reached in the Story Game. Each player can choose a different background.

Two-Player Fun

Select Chess Set

Click here to choose the chess set you want to play with. Keep clicking until the set you want appears. Each player can choose a different set. Bear in mind that you can only change your own side's set, not your opponent's.

Select Host/Client Player

Click here to choose which will be the 'host' player's side and which will be the 'client' player's side. Only the 'host' player can change this. Remember that whoever plays as the white/blue side will move first!

Select Game Type

Click here to choose either a normal chess game or one of the Pawn Games. Keep clicking until the game you want appears. Only the 'host' player can change this.

When you're happy with your selections, click on . If your opponent hasn't made all their selections yet, you'll see a 'Waiting for other player' message. Once both players have clicked on the game will start.

Playing a Network Game

You control a Network Game in the same way as you play a Story Game or a Quick Game. There are a few minor differences, though. For a start, you won't see cartoons of the captures. And if you select options that make a big change to the game, like swap sides, load/save game, etc, your opponent will be asked whether they agree first.

It's also possible to send a message to your opponent. Just click on their advisor character and a message window will appear. Now type in your message and then either press 'ENTER' or click on to send it.


Scrapbook



As you explore Chessland, I've got all sorts of rewards to give you – and this is where you store 'em, right in this here Scrapbook. Just click on it to open it.

You can turn the pages of the Scrapbook by clicking on the arrow buttons in the corners of the screen. Each open spread contains all the rewards for one of the LEGO System themes.

Whenever you capture one of your opponent's pieces in a Story Game, you'll get a sticker to put in your Scrapbook. Now if you click on one of these stickers you'll be able to watch the cartoon of the capture, to remind you of your heroic deeds. Can you get the complete sets?


If you reach the end of a Story you'll be rewarded with a certificate and this will appear in the Scrapbook right next to your sticker collection. If your computer has a printer attached, you can print out a copy of the certificate. To do this, first click on the certificate. You'll be asked if you're sure you want to print out the certificate – if you are, click on .

There's also a special spread in the Scrapbook devoted to your achievements while learning chess in my study. But I'll let you discover what they are!

Load Game





I keep all your saved games nice n' safe in the big chest in my throne room – just click on it to get at 'em.

Loading a game couldn't be easier. First click on the saved game you want to load – you'll see it light up like a Christmas tree! Now click on  to load it. You'll automatically be taken into the thick of the action!

Settings



You can change almost everything in LEGO Chess, from the way the game looks and sound to how it plays – just click on the crystal ball! You shouldn't need to come here too often, but hey – it's nice to have the choice!

From this menu you can change features and settings related to Graphics, Sound and Gameplay. Click on the symbols or words next to each listed item to change them. Note that  means that the feature or setting is 'on', while  means it's 'off'.

Graphics

Detail Level

This setting lets you choose how detailed the graphics look on-screen. There are four settings: low, medium, high and full – experiment with them to see which gives the best results on your computer.

Animated Advisors

During a game you'll see the advisors in the corners of the screen react whenever something big happens. You can toggle this feature on or off.

Default Board View

This setting lets you choose whether you'll see a 3D or a 2D board when you start a game.

Show Cartoons

Whenever one piece captures another you'll see a short cartoon sequence. You can toggle this feature on or off.

Show Fidget Moves

During a game you'll often see the pieces shuffle and fidget if they get bored. You can toggle this feature on or off.

Show Scared Moves

If a piece is at risk of being captured by the enemy band, you'll see it shake and tremble. You can toggle this feature on or off.

Instant Move

Normally pieces will walk or ride from square to square. If this feature is 'on' they'll instantly move between squares instead.

Show Reflections

In the traditional chess background you'll see that the pieces are reflected in the board. You can toggle this feature on or off.

Sound

Music Volume

Slide the button on this bar to make the music louder or softer.

Sound Effects Volume

Slide the button on this bar to make the sound effects louder or softer.

Gameplay

Show Notation

The computer keeps a record of each move made using chess notation.

If this feature is 'on' you'll see this record displayed.

Show Rank & File Notation

If this feature is 'on' the rank and file letters and numbers will be displayed along the edges of the 2D board.

Allow 'En Passant' Capture

Lets you choose whether pawns can make 'en passant' captures.

Allow Castling

Lets you choose whether castling is allowed.

Allow Promotion

Lets you choose whether promotion is allowed.

Must Move Touched Piece

If this setting is 'on' players cannot change their minds and select another piece if one has already been highlighted.

No Time Limit/Time Limit Per Move/Time Limit Per Game

Clicking on this setting cycles through the three options listed above.

- If you select 'No Time Limit', each player can take as long as they want to move.
- If you select 'Time Limit Per Move' each player has a specified amount of time in which to make a move; if they run out of time, they lose. Click on the '+' and '-' signs next to the minutes and seconds counters to change the amount of time available.
- If you select 'Time Limit Per Game' each player has a specified amount of total time in which to win the game; if they run out of time, they lose. Click on the '+' and '-' signs next to the minutes and seconds counters to change the amount of time available.

Notes for Parents

Re-configuring LEGO Chess

The configuration program determines the screen resolution, color depth and 3D drivers that'll be used when running LEGO Chess.

The first time LEGO Chess is run, the configuration program will automatically pick what it considers to be the optimum settings for your PC. However, if you wish to change the settings at any time, simply run the 'Config.exe' program – you'll find this in the folder you installed LEGO Chess to.

The configuration program allows you to change two settings:

Driver

This specifies the driver that LEGO Chess will use to access the graphics hardware in your PC. Various options will be available depending on what hardware and software you have installed. If you do not have a 3D-accelerator card, or your 3D-accelerator card is not directly supported by one of our drivers, then you must install DirectX from the LEGO Chess CD-ROM.

When the configuration program first runs, it will detect the best driver for your system. You should pick the driver which most closely relates to the graphics hardware in your system.

- If you have a supported 3D-accelerator card, pick the custom driver for that card type.
- If you have a 3D-accelerator card which does not have its own custom driver, pick the DirectX driver specific to that card type.

- If you have no 3D-accelerator card, pick the Krisalis Software Driver.

NOTE: To use the Krisalis software driver, you need to have DirectX installed on your PC.

Resolution

Lets you choose the resolution LEGO Chess is displayed at.

If you're happy with settings, click on 'OK' to save them – they will then be used every time LEGO Chess is run.

For more information on 3D accelerators and video cards, please refer to the game's install guide.



Epilepsy Warning

Please read before using any video game or allowing your children to use it.

Some people are liable to have an epileptic seizure or loss of consciousness when exposed to flashing lights or certain normal conditions of everyday life. Such persons could risk a seizure while watching televised images or while playing certain video games, and this can occur even if there have been no previous medical problems or experience of epilepsy.

If you or a member of your family has ever shown epileptic symptoms (seizure or loss of consciousness) when exposed to flickering lights, consult your doctor before playing.

Parents should supervise their children's use of video games. If you or your children experience any of the following symptoms – dizziness, altered vision, eye or muscle twitches, loss of consciousness, disorientation, involuntary movements or convulsions – discontinue use immediately and consult your doctor.

PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING GENERAL PRECAUTIONS WHEN PLAYING VIDEO GAMES

Do not sit too close to the television screen; position yourself with the linking cable at full stretch. Play video games preferably on a small screen. Do not play if you are tired or have not had much sleep. Make sure that the room in which you are playing is well lit. Rest for 10-15 minutes per hour while playing video games.



Credits

This here's the guys n' gals who worked so hard to bring you LEGO Chess – you give 'em a big round of applause now!

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And Last But Not Least...
Tutorial Design
Tutorial Script
Voice of 'The King'
FMV & In-Game Music
Recording Studio
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